

HONORING THE LIFE AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF WILLIAM STILL, "FATHER OF THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD"

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 11, 2003

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the memory of Mr. William Still and to celebrate the upcoming National Underground Railroad Family Reunion Festival. Mr. Still, known as the "Father of the Underground Railroad," was one of the primary architects of the legendary passage that assisted slaves in achieving their long sought freedom in the North.

From early childhood, William Still worked on his father's farm in Burlington County, New Jersey. When he was 23, he left the family farm for Philadelphia, arriving poor and friendless. But, as a testament to his determined nature and a foreshadowing of his future success, Mr. Still taught himself to read so by 1847, he was able to hold a secretarial position in the Pennsylvania Society for the Abolition of Slavery. While in this position, Mr. Still became directly involved in assisting African-Americans with their escape from the institution of slavery, and was able to provide boarding for many of the fugitives who rested in Philadelphia before continuing their journey to Canada.

William Still became well known for his hard work and dedication, and in 1951 when Philadelphia abolitionists organized the Vigilance Committee to assist fugitives traveling through the city, Mr. Still was elected chairman. During this time, Mr. Still used his house as one of the busiest stations on the Underground Railroad, being awoken endlessly and tirelessly throughout the night to provide fugitives with clothing and food. By some estimates, Mr. Still helped a total of 649 slaves obtain freedom. In addition, Mr. Still interviewed the fleeing slaves, including the famous conductor, Harriet Tubman, and kept careful records so that families and friends would be able to locate their relatives in the future. The result was his 1872 publication, *The Underground Railroad*; a seminal work documenting the perilous journeys slaves took for freedom.

In addition to his work on the Underground Railroad, Mr. Still, an active member of the Presbyterian Church, established a Mission School in North Philadelphia and organized one of the early YMCAs for black youth. Through these efforts, Mr. Still helped African-American youth embrace their newfound freedom, and it was with his strong leadership that the African-American community successfully made the difficult transition from the cruelty of slavery to the joys of emancipation.

In honor of his esteemed and gracious work, the William Still Underground Railroad Foundation, Inc., as requested by the Harriet Tubman Historical Society, is sponsoring the first annual National Underground Railroad Family Reunion Festival to take place in Camden, NJ and Philadelphia, PA from June 27–29, 2003. The three-day celebration will reunite descendants of conductors, abolitionists, stationmasters, fugitives, and all those whose ancestors were associated with the Underground Railroad in a public arena.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring Mr. William Still, a man who

dedicated his life to ensure the freedom and survival of others. In addition, I offer my sincere admiration and appreciation to the William Still Underground Railroad Foundation for planning and sponsoring the first annual National Underground Railroad Family Reunion Festival.

COMMENDING ELROY CHRISTOPHER AND CLAYTON GUYTON FOR ACHIEVING A 2003 ROBERT WOOD JOHNSON COMMUNITY HEALTH LEADERSHIP PROGRAM (CHLP) AWARD

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 11, 2003

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate, Elroy Christopher and Clayton Guyton, who stood up to drug dealers and opened a community center in their Baltimore neighborhood to save it from the ravages of crime and addiction. Mr. Christopher and Mr. Guyton are among an elite group of individuals from across the country selected this year to receive a Robert Wood Johnson Community Health Leadership Program (CHLP) award of \$120,000.

Elroy and Clayton met while doing volunteer grassroots work to change the environment of crime and drug abuse in Baltimore. In 1999, they combined forces to open the Rose Street Community Center in an abandoned row house and "take back" the predominantly African-American neighborhood from drug dealers who sold their wares openly on the street corner. Their goal was to create a "civil life" on the street where children could play safely and all residents could live without fear.

Despite regular threats, Elroy and Clayton continue to work with residents to help them get addiction treatment and job training. They run a tutoring program for youths in cooperation with nearby Johns Hopkins Hospital, they help organize computer workshops and Bible study classes, and sponsor community events such as cookouts and tree plantings.

They also created a program for court-ordered community service participants in which minor offenders clean up the streets in lieu of jail time. In the past two years, they have helped 100 men re-enter the community after being in prison.

"Before these two men began their work, Rose Street was a drug haven with open-air drug markets, intimidation of law-abiding citizens, and violence and murder," said their nominator, Polly Walker, Associate Director, Center for a Livable Future. "Theirs is a single-minded commitment to help others escape the cycle of poverty, drug and alcohol addiction, and crime."

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Elroy Christopher and Clayton Guyton for their accomplishments in founding the Rose Street Community Center and for their efforts put forth in achieving a 2003 Robert Wood Johnson Community Health Leadership Program (CHLP) award.

IN HONOR OF THE RETIREMENT OF DR. ANNA JOHNSON-WINEGAR

HON. JIM SAXTON

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 11, 2003

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the retirement of Dr. Anna Johnson-Winegar after 3 years of public service. Dr. Johnson-Winegar led a distinguished career, culminating as the Deputy Assistant to the Secretary of Defense for Chemical and Biological Defense. In this position, Dr. Johnson-Winegar served as the focal point within the Office of the Secretary of Defense for all issues related to the highly critical Chemical and Biological Defense Program.

Dr. Johnson-Winegar received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Biology from Hood College, and Masters of Science and Ph.D. degrees in Microbiology from Catholic University of America. Along her career, she has served at the Army Medical Research and Materiel Command, the Office of the Director, Defense Research and Engineering, and the Office of Naval Research. She also participated as a biological weapons inspector in Iraq for the United Nations Special Commission, UNSCOM. In 1998 she received the Lifetime Achievement Award from Women in Science and Engineering. Dr. Johnson-Winegar came to her current position in October 1999.

In response to the President's emerging defense strategy, coupled with the events of September 11, 2001, Dr. Johnson-Winegar spearheaded a paradigm shift within the Department of Defense Chemical Biological Defense Program. Under her leadership and expertise, defending our men and women in uniform against the threat of biological and chemical attack has taken on a heightened priority at the forefront of defense planning. She has lead the effort to improve the overall capability to defend against weapons of mass destruction, from increasing and focusing research efforts which identify and mature promising new technologies, to fielding tested and proven equipment to the warfighter engaged in ongoing operations worldwide. In an era of increasing global threat, Dr. Johnson-Winegar has helped shape how this Nation will defend both itself and its soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines against the threat of chemical and biological warfare agents. We honor Dr. Johnson-Winegar as a true patriot whose many accomplishments serving our country have helped keep this Nation strong and secure.

FACTS, NOT POLITICAL CORRECTNESS, SHOULD DETERMINE MILITARY PERSONNEL POLICIES

HON. ROSCOE G. BARTLETT

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 11, 2003

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland. Mr. Speaker: The men and women who serve in America's Armed Services performed exceptionally well during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

During the three weeks of initial heavy combat, members of the Army's 507th Maintenance Unit were ambushed along the lengthy supply lines within Iraq. The death, brief imprisonment, and serious injuries to three